

1<sup>st</sup> Prince Eugene's *SPEECH* to his Soldiers,

The Night before the last Great Battle at *Hochstetten*.

31<sup>st</sup> August 1704.  
Translated from the Original.

*The Night before the Great Battle at Hochstetten, Prince Eugene and the Duke of Marlborough, went out to observe the Enemy, whom they found Advanced and Encamped on a Hill near Hochstetten, whereupon they returned to their Camp, to give the Officers necessary Orders for the next Day, on which they resolved to Fight the French, and Prince Eugene having Commanded his Officers to attend at his Tent, he thus Harangued them.*

Gentlemen and Fellow-Soldiers,

I Am very well assured that Your Natural Courage is so Great, that it wants not to be heightened by Words, nor indeed can it; Commendation would make it less. Those very Words which Enable the Fame of Others, would lessen Yours, Your Vertues being above the Highest Expression. You have so often Signaliz'd Your Valour under My Command, that I dare not, nay cannot, Distrust of Success. Your Fidelity has been ever equal to Your Courage; fixt as a Rock, never to be moved with all the Storms of War. Your Courage forbids me to be distrustful of Success, and Your Fidelity almost Assures Me of it; yet suffer Me to give You One Word or Two of Exhortation. I need not tell You that We have a Potent Enemy to deal with, one who aims at nothing less than Universal Monarchy; who cannot so much as think of Confining himself within his own Kingdom, much less of letting his Neighbours live Peaceably by him: His Design plainly is, if he can but carry it, to make all the Kings and Princes, People and Nations of Europe his Tributaries, and to translate the Empire of the West to Paris from Vienna: Consider the Pride and Ambition of this Haughty Monarch, and what We and the Rest of Our Allies can expect from him, if he gets the Better of Us. Look at his own Subjects the Poor *Cevennois*, see how he Persecutes them, even with the most exquisite Torments: If he treats his own Subjects thus, those very Subjects who were the Chiefest Instruments to set him upon the Throne of France; What Usage must We expect of him, if Taken in Arms against him? Sec, here We have Two powerful Armies before Us, the French and the *Bavarians*, and a Third, in all probability, within a few Days March of them. *Bavaria*, Our Brother, is against Us, *Tallard* backs him with his French Troops, and *Villeroi* is ready to come to Both their Assistance. It must be confess'd they have the Men, but We the Cause on Our Side, and a Good Cause can never fail. Remember, My Friends, remember when Ye give the Onset, That Ye Fight for Honour and Glory; That Your Estates, Your Wives and Children, Your Liberty, and the Safety of Your Country depends upon Your Swords Point. If We Conquer Our Estates, Our Wives, Our Children, Our Liberty, and Our Country (which ought to be Prefer'd before all other Things) shall be Secur'd to Us; if not, All Things will be against Us; no Place will be Able to Secure Us against the Enemy, when We cannot Secure Our Selves by dint of Sword: Consider, Fellow-Soldiers, that they Fight only to obtain more Crowns to those which they have, and that We Fight to Defend what We have already got, and if We lose Our Footing, I very much doubt whether the French Tyrant will not soon Grind Us to Powder: His Pride is so Great, We can expect no Favour, and his Cruelty so Great, that he can never be glutted with Blood. Rouze My Champions in War, I say Rouze, Exert Your former Courage, shew Your Selves to be Men, for Your Country's Service. Your Country calls upon You, *Cesar* Commands You, *England* and *Holland* Encourages You to Play Your Parts, not only for Your Own, but the Common Safety of all Europe. If France and Spain Rise, We must necessarily Fall: If France Increases in Power, We must Decrease; for in short, the Interest of France and the Allies is utterly Incomparable.

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